



Asia Education Foundation

Building Demand - What Works For Studies of Asia

Building Demand: engaging school educators

Engaging school leadership

Since 2008, the Asia Education Foundation (AEF) has been delivering and supporting delivery of the Leading 21st Century Schools: Engage with Asia professional learning program (L21CS Program). This is a national professional learning program for principals and other school leaders. To date, more than 500 school leaders have taken part. The partners are Principals Australia Institute and various peak principals' organisations, with funding through the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program (NALSSP).

The L21CS Program is based on the notion that the role of principals and other leaders in schools is crucial in creating demand for Asia literacy. It therefore seeks to engage them in that enterprise.

Specifically, the L21CS Program:

- >> builds awareness of the current and future global significance of Asia, and the importance for Australia to engage with Asia;
- >> supports schools to implement national policies on Asia, including the Australian Curriculum priority of Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia;
- >> supports the development of whole-school approaches to ensure the development of sustainable Asia literate policy and programs.

This happens through a sandwich model of professional learning, which provides for a one-day workshop, followed by a period of implementation of specific school-based plans and a final, half-day workshop to share, reflect and report on outcomes. To assist them in leading change in their own schools, participants leave the L21CS Program with



a tool kit of resources, several of which are discussed below.

'My engagement with the L21CS Program has been an eye opener. The initiative is backed with rich resources for school leaders, teachers and students. ... It has given me confidence in taking an active leadership role in the school.'

Anne Fletcher Principal
Cooinda Primary School, WA

'The resources prepared for the L21CS Program by the Asia Education Foundation were some of the best resources I have ever seen provided for schools. The resources were based on recent research and successful practices; used current approaches to professional learning which enthused those involved; and provided flexible and comprehensive activities to suit a diversity of contexts.'

Lyndall Bain, Principal
Banksia Park International High School, SA

School principals are highly effective in promoting Asia literacy

The Leading 21st Century Schools: Engage with Asia professional learning program (L21CS Program) is a national professional learning program for principals and other school leaders, funded through NALSSP. Evaluations indicate that it accelerates demand for Asia literacy in participating schools.

Taking stock

Activities in the L21CS Program ask participants to reflect on and learn about the features of an Asia literate school. They are then able to use particular tools to audit their own schools.

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First, they consider a set of 12 indicators of an Asia literate school, including matters such as whether there is a team committed to a whole school, across-the-curriculum approach to Asia literacy; if Asia literacy is integrated with other education priorities and whether students have the opportunity to learn an Asian language. This activity provides an overview of progress towards Asia literacy.

Back at school, participants then are able to consider their school's curriculum, learning area by learning area, identifying where Asia-related content is included and, of course, where it is not. They also use L21CS Program presentation guidelines and videos to engage their local communities.

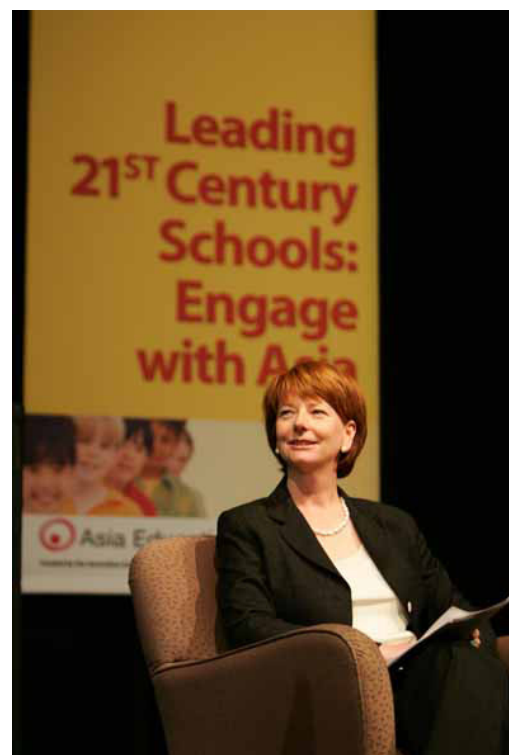
Many participants have reported that they find these activities particularly useful.

Conclusion

Engaging school principals through initiatives such as the L21CS Program can be highly effective in building demand for Asia literacy.

L21CSV

In Victoria, a cross-sectoral partnership between the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), the Catholic Education Office and the Association of Independent Schools initiated a distinct Victorian edition of L21CS in 2009. This is called Leading 21st Century Schools: Engage with Asia — Victoria (L21CSV) and three rounds of activity have taken place since then, supported by NALSSP funding.



About AEF

The Asia Education Foundation provides teachers, education leaders and school communities with innovative programs, curriculum resources and networks to support the achievement of Asia literacy for every young Australian.

AEF is a joint activity of Asialink at the University of Melbourne and Education Services Australia. It receives core funding from the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

AEF leverages funding to support Asia literacy in Australian schools from a broad range of government, philanthropic and corporate partners in Australia and Asia.

Related links

>> Leading 21st Century Schools <http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/l21cs>

Contact Asia Education Foundation P: +61 3 8344 4800 E: aef-support@asialink.unimelb.edu.au

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